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SEN. SCOTT INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO REPEAL CONTROVERSIAL CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

LANSING- State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today introduced Senate Bill 815, a bill that would repeal provisions currently in the state School Code that open the door for further expansion of charter schools in the city of Detroit.

In a highly controversial--and some have said highly politicized—ruling, Attorney General Mike Cox released an opinion arguing that Senate Bill 393, the charter school expansion bill, had already become law in Michigan despite having been officially recalled from the Governor by the Michigan State Senate. Senator Scott's bill seeks to end any debate or confusion as to whether the bill's controversial language belongs in Michigan state statutes.

"In my opinion, the Senate made it clear that it did not intend for this legislation to become law when it recalled the bill from the Governor," Scott said. "The Attorney General's ruling is an obvious attempt to get through the backdoor that which could not be achieved through the front door. That's not how we make laws in Michigan."

Attorney General Cox ruled that SB 393 became law when Governor Granholm failed to veto the bill within 14 days of it being sent to her desk. However, the Michigan Senate recalled the bill from the Governor so that revisions could be made. Michigan House Republicans later asked the Attorney General to opine after compromise language could not be agreed to on the bill.

"Leaving this language in state statutes is an open invitation for anyone with enough financial means, regardless of their qualifications or motivations, to come into Detroit and to start building more charter schools," Scott said. "It's time to make it clear that neither the Governor nor Legislature abdicated its authority to regulate public schools in Michigan to the Attorney General."

